



WRANGELL JUNKYARD MONOFILL PROJECT

Frequently Asked Questions (August 2017)

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

During 2016, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) managed cleanup activities at the former Wrangell (Byford) Junkyard contaminated site. The cleanup work is complete, except for final disposal of the soil, which is slated to be moved to a monofill that will be constructed in a rock pit off Pat Creek Road.

For background information on the Wrangell Junkyard project, visit: https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/sites/wrang_junkyard.htm.

WHAT IS A MONOFILL?

A monofill is a landfill or disposal facility that receives primarily one type of solid waste, which in this instance is stabilized lead-contaminated soil.

IS THE STOCKPILE OF CONTAMINATED SOIL CURRENTLY UNDERNEATH A BIG TARP? WHY NOT LEAVE THE WASTE UNDISTURBED, RIGHT WHERE IT IS?

The temporary stockpile is currently covered by an industrial-grade tarp, which has been damaged several times by high winds and has required costly repairs. Soil in the stockpile contains high levels of lead that, although stabilized and not leachable (meaning, it doesn't pose a risk to groundwater or surface water), should not be ingested, inhaled, or spread elsewhere. It is crucial to move this soil into a permanent disposal location to prevent erosion, runoff, and windblown migration, otherwise there is a potential for exposure.

Furthermore, the current location of the stockpile is not suitable as a permanent disposal site, due to the slope of the property, weather exposures, and concern over technical design and construction issues.

WHY WASN'T THIS MATERIAL SHIPPED OUT?

The cost to ship this material to a landfill out-of-state would be at least double the cost of constructing a permanent disposal facility on the Wrangell road system.

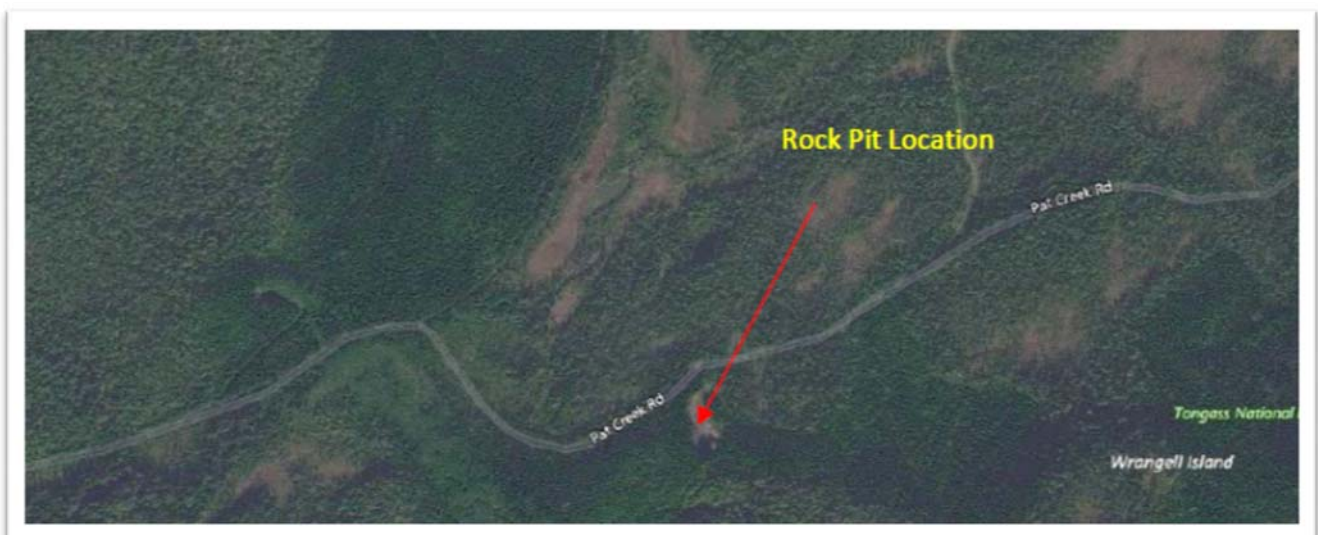
HAS DEC BEEN WORKING WITH THE CITY ON THIS?

Yes, DEC and the City and Borough of Wrangell have been working together for nearly ten years to get the former Wrangell Junkyard site cleaned up. More recently, DEC and the City and Borough have been collaborating on plans to construct a monofill locally within the Wrangell Borough. Through coordination with the City, Borough, and DNR, a rock-pit was selected as the preferred monofill location. DEC has hosted multiple meetings with city officials, including the city council, to discuss the monofill location construction plans.



WHERE IS THIS PIT LOCATED?

The selected monofill site is located in the Petersburg B-1 Quadrangle in Section 4, Township 64S, Range 84E of the Copper River Meridian. Aerial imagery showing the location is included below:



WHO OWNS THE PIT BY PAT'S LAKE?

The rock pit where the monofill will be constructed is owned by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. Pat's Lake is located approximately one mile to the southwest of this rock pit.

IS THE PIT NEAR ANY ANADROMOUS SALMON SYSTEMS?

The pit is located 0.1 miles from Pat Creek, which is an anadromous fish stream.

HOW LIKELY IS IT THAT THE WASTE COULD LEAK INTO NEARBY LAKES AND PONDS?

The lead polluted soil from the former Wrangell Junkyard site has been stabilized using a phosphate-based product called EcoBond, which has made the lead in the soil non-leachable. The inability for the lead to leach to groundwater and become mobilized has been demonstrated and confirmed by extensive environmental testing throughout the entire cleanup project and a geotechnical and hydrologic investigation at the pit location. The monofill is designed to be a permanent disposal cell for the lead-polluted soil. It is designed to withstand significant seismic events and severe weather. The material will be compacted as it is placed into the repository and then capped with multiple layers of rock, an engineered impermeable liner, sand and rock, and then topped with soil and vegetation.

ARE THERE ANY ISSUES RELATING TO A PORTION OF THE ROAD THAT THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE HAS AN EASEMENT FOR?

DEC and its contractors have submitted a road use proposal to the USFS and are working with the Wrangell Ranger District to obtain a road use permit or authorization to use the approximately two mile section of road for which the USFS has a non-exclusive public easement from DNR and the Mental Health Land Trust. The proposal includes continuous maintenance of the road throughout the project and measures to prevent contamination along the route.

IS THIS MATERIAL STILL CONSIDERED TOXIC?

Lead in the treated soil is no longer leachable, thus it does not pose a risk to groundwater or surface water. However, the lead concentrations are high enough to pose a risk if people or wildlife inadvertently ingest or breathe in dust from the soil, which is why DEC is working with other to ensure the soil is disposed of properly where it will be managed in place. Institutional controls will be established to limit future activities, such as excavation, that could damage the monofill.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Division of Spill Prevention and Response, Contaminated Sites Program

Sally Schlichting, Environmental Program Manager

(907) 465-5076

sally.schlichting@alaska.gov

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